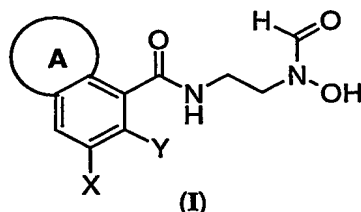


What is claimed is:

1. A compound according to formula (I):



- 5 wherein:

A is a fused aromatic or aliphatic ring system consisting of five to seven atoms and incorporating zero to four heteroatoms, such that A may be optionally substituted with one, two, or three substituents selected from the group consisting of: optionally substituted alkyl or cycloalkyl of one to nine carbons, halo, alkoxy of one to nine carbons, hydroxy, amino, hydroxyalkyl of one to nine carbons, and alkoxyalkyl; wherein the alkyl and alkylene groups are independently of one to nine carbons, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, carboxy, and alkoxycarbonyl, and X and Y are, independently, halo, hydroxy, or hydroxyalkyl of one to three carbons.

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2. 5-Chloro-4-[2-(*N*-formyl-*N*-hydroxy-amino)-ethyl]amido-benzimidazole.

3. A method of treating a bacterial infection by administering to a subject a compound according to claim 1.

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